

# HYPNOTIZE THE GANGSTER, THEN REFORM HIM

Prince Hopkins, Psychologist, Goes Into Slums, Seizes Jeering Hoodlums, Makes Passes and Converts Them—But He Can't Cure an Entire Gang at One Time—Must Individualize and Many Lapses Are Expected

A new solution has been offered for the "gang problem," one of the most distressing problems which confront the sociologist and the educator in large cities. It is generally admitted to-day that the gang has come to stay and, therefore, lay and religious agencies no longer attempt to break it up, but rather corral it on playgrounds or in clubs, and trust to the wholesome influence of a new environment to counteract the influence of street corners and back alleys.

Prince Hopkins, who is not a prince although his maternal grandfather was Lord Delamere, disagrees with the present methods and has in the course of several years' experiments evolved a method of his own.

Mr. Hopkins is a young Californian whose family is endowed with a rather large share of this world's commodities. He has inherited his taste for sociological research from his mother, a leader in charitable work in Santa Barbara.

Prince Hopkins is a graduate of Leland Stanford and of the University of Wisconsin. He was until recently a lecturer on psychology at the University of Wisconsin. He attended courses of pathology at the Nancy School and at the Salpêtrière in Paris. Then followed years of experiments, more or less rewarded by success.

Hopkins first tried out his theories on London loafers. In spite of introductions given him by Drs. Wright and Bramwell, the famous London specialists, he met with a rather chilly reception at the hands of the police and of the Salvation Army, whenever he applied for "subjects." He was coolly informed that some of the bums would sooner or later "bring his neck like a rat's." Undismayed by such sinister warnings, Hopkins accosted on the Embankment a pasty-faced young loafer called "Enry," and offered him "two bob" a day to bring to his laboratory other young loafers of his age, who would receive six pence an hour for submitting to harmless experiments.

Hopkins then rented a little flat between Westminster Bridge and the "Elephant and Castle." Half a dozen young gentlemen of leisure from the slums reported for treatment, under the leadership of "Enry," who acted as paymaster. Taking the boys, either one by one or in groups of two or three, belonging to the same type, Hopkins suggested to them certain simple principles of conduct in the course of the hypnotic trance.

Things went well for a couple of weeks. Then "Enry," whose handling of the funds seemed to be irreproachable, began to bring more and more White-chapel gentlemen until one day he had about thirty-five of them cooped up in one room of the flat. As he was making probably an honest though small middleman's profit of them he worked hard gathering weak souls with a craving for hypnotic salvation. Hopkins, enthusiastic at first, very soon discovered his first mistake. The ribald behavior of the thirty-five gentlemen obliged him to close up the flat and to seek another neighborhood.

## Three Gangsters Helped.

The same thing came to pass when he opened another laboratory on Percy street. As soon as the two dozen inmates reached the gang's riotous instinct set at naught the power of Hopkins' righteous suggestions. Out of 120 subjects he treated in London he confesses that only three were positively benefited. Hopkins then returned to the United States and made many experiments on boys in the laboratory of the University of Wisconsin. He then adopted another system. He found out everybody's line of least and of highest resistance by taking various scientific measurements which had apparently nothing to do with reforming the boys. There also he dis-

covered that while individuals responded to the suggestive treatment groups were harder to handle.

Finally Hopkins transferred his activities to this city and established his psychological laboratory in a section of the city where "gang" material is easily secured—the San Juan Hill district. He worked at first in collaboration with Dr. S. Block, lecturer on nervous diseases at the Brooklyn Institute.

The walls of his Fifty-eighth street establishment were decorated with pictures of athletes. There were sandow exercisers around the room and books on physical development. One after one the boys were put in a trance and the operator suggested at first a desire for perfect physical development; when this desire seemed to manifest itself in the boy's conduct in his eagerness to read books on the subject, the operator then suggested an increasing feeling of horror for whatever might hamper the boy's efforts—drink, smoking, overindulgence in coffee and other vices of youth.

Very soon, however, the gangs of the neighborhood began to tease and abuse the boys who lent themselves to the experiments; the house was besieged several times and the laboratory had to be closed.

## Hoodlums Sober Down.

Hopkins had by this time learned his lesson. "In this work," he says, "one cannot underestimate the suggestion of the environment. The gang even when gathered in a laboratory, even when put in a receptive mood by the operator's words, remains the gang. Its power of collective suggestion is too strong to be counteracted by one man's mental efforts. The way to treat the gang is to pick out individual members of it, to isolate them and to call them for the period of treatment into a different neighborhood. The sordid looking house where we worked on sordid Fifty-eighth street had in itself a depressing effect on the youngsters. Now I have the San Juan Hill hoodlums come to a sunny, airy place on Columbia Hill, where everything suggests clean life, clean thoughts, order and peace. On Fifty-eighth street toughness, untidiness, boisterous behavior are smart. The Fifty-eighth street hero who travels alone to a clean uptown district and who is no longer supported by the gang's approval weakens considerably and begins right away to modify his outward behavior.

"Talk to him alone, be kind to him, be a big brother to him (many of my boys I have secured through the Big Brothers movement), and he will show willingness to swear off his allegiance to the tyrannical gang. The gangster is generally weak physically and mentally. He is underfed and his family environment is often detestable. He must lean on something, and therefore leans on anything.

"An effective way of helping those boys to get rid of their bad habits is to find out what habits they actually wish to get rid of. Do not preach to them; do not lecture them nor scold them. Find out by and by what boyish ideal is buried in them. Awaken the yearning which the street and the gang have stifled. Don't try to find out everything at once or to correct everything the same day. Go slowly and give your suggestion time to sink deeply into their brains.

"A boy will confess to you, for instance, that he would like to free himself from the nail biting habit. Do not go any further on your inquiries. He may be drinking or smoking besides, but solve the nail biting question first. Suggest to him that he has no wish to bite his nails, then that biting his nails irritates his incisives that the gesture of raising his finger tips to his teeth entails a painful muscular exertion."

## Boys Forget Vice.

"When you have succeeded in one thing, the boy's confidence in himself

and in you increases wonderfully. Therefore always begin with the simplest thing. I have observed that the most effective way of breaking habits through suggestion was to emphasize some unpleasant sensation connected with each habit. Dwell in the course of the hypnotic trance on the burning sensation alcohol or tobacco produces in the mouth and throat and your subjects will gradually forget whatever gratification they derived from drinking and smoking and will only remember the disagreeable pungency of whiskey or cigarettes."

"Would you then," we asked, "discard the study of sociology for the practice of hypnotism?"

"By no means. My system would be perfectly ineffective unless based on a constant study of sociology. Most of my early failures were due to my ignorance of the subject at the time. Take for instance John B., a boy from Fifty-seventh street, who has no bad habits worth mentioning but who is periodically seized with an uncontrollable craze to destroy something, to harm a playmate, to inflict violence. I have investigated his case. His father, now dead, was a frightful drunkard who, whenever he returned home in a state of intoxication, would beat the boy cruelly. A sort of savage resentment seems to have accumulated in John's soul and reveals itself now and then by apparently unexplainable outbreaks. I have been at work on him for several months suggesting to him that his physical strength must be given an outlet periodically by taking long tramps, walking a couple of times around Central Park or taking long swims during the summer until he feels exhausted. Reports made to me prove that his fits of brutality have become less frequent and less dangerous, and I am greatly hopeful of success with this young delinquent. Provided he escapes punishment at the hand of the police and judges I may regenerate him completely."

"You don't believe in punishment, then?"

"In no form whatever. In a mild form punishment may seem to check some bad habits, although not without causing other objectionable phenomena. Its beneficent function soon became an evil one. For it draws the boy's attention to the things 'Not to be Done.' This is a waste of psychic energy. Remember what Prof. William James wrote: 'What holds the attention determines action.' My system, as you see, doesn't concentrate the child's attention on evil things to be avoided. I create in him a feeling of

repulsion for certain evil things and then cause him to forget them and to think only of beautiful, useful and healthful habits."

## Cannot Sham Sleep.

"Don't your subjects experience relapses?"

"Oh, continually; but those relapses are of shorter and shorter duration. You see the gang's influence is always for bad, and my suggestions are always for the individual's benefit. Therefore my influence is bound to prevail. For there



PRINCE C. HOPKINS.



MR. HOPKINS' HOME IN SANTA BARBARA, CAL.



THE GANG AT WORK.



WHERE THE 58 STREET LABORATORY WAS LOCATED



HYPNOTIC APPARATUS

nous point I may use a luminous test, such as 'To-morrow I will walk ten miles.' This affects the optic nerves and the brain until the subject falls asleep and the obsession of the resolve thus formed, so to speak vicariously, will in the majority of cases translate itself into positive action the following day. As I said before, I use none but positive commands. No 'I shall not' for mine. 'I shall not be bad' implies analyzing all the elements of badness and visualizing, with some times disastrous results, the various ways of being bad. When we linger too long on certain ways of being bad our contemplation of such ways may not lead us to reform. Whereas an analysis of good conduct and of the various ways of being good, such as is implied by the command 'I shall be good,' cannot possibly result in any weakening of the will or any moral lapses.

## Not a New Science.

"I hope every educator will in due time see the necessity of employing over the two or three 'terrors' of the class room his powers of suggestion as I have used mine with some 200 members of gangs in this city and elsewhere. No, this is not a new science. I am not starting a new creed. I do not wish to be an apostle. I am simply eager to turn over to the public whatever knowledge I have gathered in the course of my experiments and which is all embodied in what I have told you to-day."

A knock at the door interrupted Mr. Hopkins' flow of eloquence. He rose, very high, for he must be over six feet, and called his secretary, "Sydney, this must be Harry D—; get his card out and put him on the couch."

Mr. Hopkins told us in the course of the interview that his hypnotic apparatus could be used for autosuggestion. As the young Californian is a little slim and pale and undoubtedly too fond of books and libraries, we suggested that he try his "hypnotizer" two nights in succession and put himself asleep reading the following mottoes: "I shall walk ten miles to-morrow." "I shall grow plump and ruddy"

# DARING GANG OF MOTOR CAR BANDITS TERRORIZES PARIS

PARIS, April 4.—A feeling of terror has been produced in Paris and its suburbs by the crimes of the motor car bandits—crimes almost unparalleled in the police annals of a great city in modern times. In addition to the alarm caused by the audacity, the ferocity, the disregard of human life shown by the bandits, the public sense of insecurity has been heightened by the seeming inability of the police to prevent these crimes.

Among visible manifestations of the sense of terror prevailing are policemen with revolvers outside their coats and heavily armed Municipal Guards posted outside the offices of the Magistrates inquiring into the crimes. Detectives on special duty have been provided with carbines carrying soft nosed bullets. Hundreds of letters are being received by the police on the subject of the robberies.

Any one who has had experience with the French police has noticed that whenever a sensational crime takes place and the criminal escapes the newspapers soon begin to print paragraphs to the effect that the criminal investigation department has obtained proof that the crime was the work of the members of an international gang with headquarters in London and agents in Paris, New York, Switzerland, etc.

If public attention continues to be fixed on the crime the press proceeds to inform the world that the detective service has acquired the certainty that the chief men implicated were and then names with biographies and other details are given, and it is intimated that arrests are only a matter of time or are being delayed with a view to the capture of the whole gang.

the Orient Mail. It ended in an arrest in Brussels of which nothing more has been heard. The police procedure reminds the caustic Henri Rochefort of the methods of some restaurants where the waiter, to keep the diner patient brings a plate along, then a glass, then a water bottle, after that the wine, all to make him overlook the

fact that twenty minutes have gone since he ordered his soup. So the police seek to keep the public mind occupied when a crime is committed, says M. Rochefort. They have a careful post mortem examination made of the bodies of the bank clerks killed at Chantilly, to make sure they did not die of tuberculosis or typhoid fever. They "reconstitute" the crime on the quiet little town square to test whether the bandit, Garnier, was on the right or the left of the automobile when his Winchester repeater kept outside help from the bank while his friends robbed it.

The crimes that have kept Paris for the last three months in a state of terror al-

most rising to panic are said by the detective service to be the work of a gang of twenty men, who when not on a job lead a quiet bourgeois life, generally living in boarding houses, never drinking and never giving cause for any suspicion. They are said to be closely connected with the anarchist movement and to pass their

time between big operations in making counterfeit money and hunting for opportunities to commit burglaries. Their work has been recognized in Belgium, at Charleroi, around Paris, at Nancy, Lyon and in the Midi.

The first operation credited to them in Paris was the burglary on the night of November 16 of a Paris gunsmith's shop where they stole \$2,000 worth of guns, revolvers and daggers. This was a preliminary to the attack on the bank messenger, Caby, in the Rue Ordener, on a day when they seemed to be aware that he would be carrying an unusually large amount of money. As Caby was employed by the Société Générale, whose branch at Chantilly was also robbed on a day when there was an unusually large amount of cash in the bank, it has been concluded that the gang is particularly well informed concerning the Société's business.

For the attack on the bank messenger, the bandits needed an automobile, so they stole that of M. Normand, in the Bologne suburb of Paris and placed it in a half finished garage at Bobigny on the other side of Paris, the owner of which (Detweiler) was afterward arrested. After nearly killing Caby and making free use of their revolvers in the street, they drove to Dieppe, abandoned the automobile there and returned to Paris, probably in an automobile stolen from M. Barot at Pavillons sous Bois by a member of the gang named Coismann, who has since been arrested.

On the night of December 23 they obtained a fresh supply of arms from a shop on the Rue Lafayette, and on the night of January 9 they made a careful selection from the stock of a dealer in weapons on the Boulevard Hausmann, taking only the newest and most powerful weapons, including nine Winchester repeaters, seventeen heavy automatic pistols and six modern fowling pieces.

Two of the band, Lebourg, an expert typographer employed on the *Germinet*, and an anarchist under police supervision and Renard, an ex-convict undertook a little burglary at a station just outside Orleans. Caught in the act, they wounded the station agent and an employee, fled

and were pursued. In the ensuing fight a gendarme was killed and Lebourg escaped capture by suicide. Renard, taken prisoner, first pretended to be a Canadian, named Oscar Wilde or Wilson. Lebourg was known to be a friend of Garnier, the supposed leader of the band.

After a short interval a telegram sent by Simentoff from Alais and intercepted by the police, informed the band that a bank messenger would be carrying an unusually large sum there on February 28. The day before M. Buisson's automobile was stolen by the band at St. Mandé, on the eastern outskirts of Paris, and a start was made for Alais. In the

## CRIMES COMMITTED BY PARIS MOTOR CAR BANDITS.

Nov. 27, 1911	Chatelet-en-Brie	Chauffeur murdered and automobile stolen.
Dec. 14, 1911	Boulogne-sur-Seine	Automobile of M. Norman stolen.
Dec. 21, 1911	Paris	Attempt to murder Caby, bank messenger, in the Rue Ordener. Bank messenger named Gouy-Paillet robbed of \$30,000.
Jan. 31, 1912	Paris	Freight station robbed; two men wounded.
Jan. 31, 1912	Les Aubrais near Orleans	Revolver battle with burglars in which a policeman was killed and his murderer committed suicide.
Jan. 31, 1912	Angerville	M. Buisson's automobile stolen. Policeman Garnier shot in the rue du Havre in trying to stop auto containing bandits.
Feb. 27, 1912	St. Mandé	Attempt to rob the office of a notary named Tuitant.
Feb. 27, 1912	Paris	Attempt to rob automobile garage.
Feb. 29, 1912	Pontoise	Chauffeur named Mathille murdered on the road by men who stole the automobile.
Mar. 20, 1912	Chaton	Société Generale's bank robbed; two clerks killed; \$10,000 stolen.
Mar. 25, 1912	Montgeron	
Mar. 25, 1912	Chantilly	

Rue du Havre, near the St. Lazare station, a policeman named Garnier sought to take their name and addresses because they were exceeding the speed limit and had also violated a traffic rule by passing a street refuge on the left instead of the right. As a result of his attempt to stop them Garnier was shot dead, probably by his namesake Garnier, and the automobile, driven by Bonnot with a skill that called forth admiration, escaped.

The attack on a notary's office in Pontoise failed after much free shooting and as usual the automobile used was abandoned. By this time the photographs and descriptions of the three chief

men, Bonnot, Carouy, another expert chauffeur, and Garnier were spread broadcast.

The following prisoners are held on suspicion of being concerned in the motor car crimes: Dieudonné, charged with taking part in the Rue Ordener attack on a bank messenger; Paul de Boer, arrested with him; Bellone, arrested while claiming a trunk at the Northern Station in Paris containing some of the securities stolen in the Rue Ordener; Rodriguez, arrested in Lille after fleeing from Paris, where he is said to have accompanied Bellone to the railroad station; Raimbault, once a municipal councillor at Pavillons-sous-Bois, who is charged with harboring Garnier, Bonnot and others in his house; Godard, Charlot, known as Boulanger, ("the Baker"); Modge, accused of sheltering Garnier and Carouy; Mallet, a friend of Garnier's; Kelain, Chicher, an anarchist.

The names of the suspects still to be captured are Bonnot, who is known to have used half a dozen aliases and whose wife obtained a divorce the day after the Chantilly affair; Raymond, "la Science," Garnier, Carouy, Simentoff and four or five others whose descriptions are said to be in the hands of the police.

The last desperate robbery committed by the gang seems to have been due to want of money, according to statements made by Rodriguez, one of the prisoners, as the Rue Ordener robbery brought little actual cash. The confessions said to have been made by Rodriguez and Dieudonné are supposed to have led Garnier to write the audacious letter, threatening to sell his life dearly and which was called to THE SUN.

In connection with the Montgeron affair it is to be noted that the bandits selected for use a particular motor car, a brand new one which was being sent out before their purchasers registered it, and let dozens of others pass by. This car had not its own number, but a general number used by the firm on all new cars before their purchasers registered them. Another car from the same firm was sent out that day and so bore this general number. It was stopped by the authorities at one of the gates of Paris and for a time it was thought that the bandits had been caught.



THREE OF THE MOST NOTORIOUS. PARISIAN AUTO BANDITS

CAROUY

BONNOT

GARNIER